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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 68
By Windle

A RESOLUTION to specially recognize Grace Copeland Bilbrey
on the occasion of her 102nd birthday.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly was pleased to learn that one of the most gracious and charming citizens of our state, Grace Copeland Bilbrey, will celebrate her 102nd birthday on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the oldest daughter of Ellsworth Maywood and Sarah Loretta Keisling Copeland, who taught her the values of hard work, the importance of family and to always strive to help those less fortunate, Grace Copeland was born on February 14, 1899, in Overton County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Copeland family were among the first settlers in Overton County; and

WHEREAS, in 1799, Colonel Stephen Calvin Copeland and his son, Joseph "Big Joe" Jefferson, were the first white settlers in what is now Overton County; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Copeland's son, Solomin, was the first white child born in the county; and

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WHEREAS, Grace Copeland Bilbrey, has been a beloved resident of Overton County for all of her life and is currently an active resident of the Overton County Nursing Home in Livingston; and

WHEREAS, she was married to Ernest Bilbrey, on June 3, 1921 and the loving couple raised two children, the late Ronald Ernest and Evelyn Bilbrey Stoecipher, who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina with her husband, Bill; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Copeland is the proud and loving grandmother of three grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause to honor Mrs. Bilbrey, who is an outstanding representative of the finest traditions of our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Grace Copeland Bilbrey on the celebration of her 102nd birthday and designate this remarkable lady as an official Valentine of the Tennessee General Assembly. We wish her many happy returns in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.